

# JUSTICE, RULE OF LAW, SECURITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL:

## Improving the Fairness and Safety of Our Societies

At the Quebec City Summit, the leaders of our hemisphere recognized that justice, rule of law, and individual security are essential building blocks for a democratic and prosperous society. Well-functioning judicial and police systems give people the confidence to invest in their economies and create closer ties within our societies.

In the Quebec City Plan of Action, leaders agreed to reinforce the initiatives and programs for strengthening independent judiciary and increasing access to justice. Additionally, they continued to build on the hemispheric plan to combat drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and violence.

U.S. assistance has played an important part in helping to implement these commitments. In 2003, the U.S. devoted over \$118 million for justice and anticorruption support in Latin America and the Caribbean. The U.S. supports training, exchanges of best practices, and educational programs to promote respect for the rule of law. The U.S. is also a core contributor to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, which works to raise the quality of justice systems throughout the Americas.



As part of Operation Cobra, a Brazilian federal police agent scans the ground for an illegal landing strip and a hidden plane during a flight over Brazil's northern state of Roraima, May 2003. The operation, partly funded by the U.S. DEA, uses satellite technology from the Unified Amazon Surveillance System. In two years the initiative has reduced drug traffic from Colombia into Brazil by 60 percent and has resulted in increased cooperation between Brazil and its neighbors. (Andre Vieira, Getty Images)

### U.S. ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE HEMISPHERE'S AGENDA

- The U.S. actively participates and provides significant funding for the **Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD)** and its unique **Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM)**. CICAD is helping strengthen regional cooperation on drug-related matters, while the MEM helps countries assess national as well as hemispheric collective progress against the various aspects of the illegal drug problem and related crimes.
- In 2003, the U.S. began **Citizen Security and Policing programs** in Jamaica and El Salvador.
- The U.S. supports **rule of law and justice sector reform** in 15 countries in the hemisphere. In 2004 and 2005, U.S. agencies will strengthen existing programs and develop new projects in the areas of political parties, anticorruption, and trafficking in persons.
- The U.S. is a strong supporter of the work of the **Inter-American Human Rights Commission**. In 2003, the U.S. provided \$800,000 in support of Commission activities.